

SUMMARY OF RULES AND CRITERIA
2009-2010 United States Senate Youth Program – INDIANA

- I. In order to be eligible for nomination, each nominee must be:
 - a. A permanent resident of the United States;
 - b. A resident of Indiana;
 - c. Currently enrolled in the 11th or 12th grade in a public or private high school in Indiana; home-school students are also eligible; and
 - d. Currently serving in an elected or appointed capacity in student government or in a civic or educational organization, such as:
 - i. Student body president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or
 - ii. Class president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or
 - iii. Student council representative, or
 - iv. Student representative to district, regional, or state-level civic or educational organizations
 - e. Cannot have been selected as a delegate to Washington, D.C. in past years.
- II. To participate in the program;
 - a. Delegates must be able to remain with the group throughout the entire program week. No tours or trips will be permitted by individual Delegates while traveling to or from Washington, D.C. or while in Washington, D.C. This policy includes any other outside activity, conference, scholarship competition or event of another organization which is conducted in Washington, D.C. or the surrounding area during the time frame of the USSYP week. No exceptions will be made other than for death or documented health emergency in the immediate family.
 - b. All travel is scheduled during these time frames pending weather conditions and flight availability, no exceptions. The program requires that the student completely block both arrival and departure days to receive the travel benefit.
 - i. Arrival: Saturday, March 6th between 7:00am and 7:00pm.
 - ii. Departure: Saturday, March 13th between 5:00am and 5:00pm.
- III. Special arrangements:
 - a. No arrangements for individual religious practices or services other than dietary guidelines will be made during the Washington week. This policy will be strictly observed from the time the student delegates arrive at the Washington area airports, train station and program sites until they return to their home states.
- IV. Selection process:
 - a. Nomination of outstanding junior or senior by high school principal. If home schooled, may be nominated by church or civic leader.
 - b. Selection of ten finalists by Indiana Bar Foundation, Indiana Department of Education, and Indiana Association of School Principals, based on:

- i. Nomination form;
 - ii. Student essay on a given topic relating to the U.S. Government and the political process; The essay is the major factor in the selection process.
 - iii. One-page student resume;
 - iv. Letter of support from principal (from church or civic leader if home-schooled).
 - c. Ten finalists complete a written examination and an individual interview in Indianapolis, 9:00am to 4:00pm, Saturday, November 7th, 2009. NOTE: All expenses, including transportation to and from Indianapolis, are the responsibility of the local school and/or parents or guardians of the finalists. Tests and interviews will only be done on this date.
- V. Criteria for selection of ten finalists:
- a. Nomination form: filled out completely and must bear the signature of the student's high school principal.
 - b. Student essay:
 - i. Should take and defend a position on the assigned topic:
How do we, as a nation, educate our youth about how to become engaged and enlightened citizens and is this important? What role, if any, should the government, schools, parents and community organizations play in this process?
 - ii. Should be specific, concise, well-organized and free of errors in grammar and spelling.
 - iii. Must be 350 – 500 words in length, written by the student
 - iv. Should be written on typewriter or word processor and
 - v. Should have a title at the top of the page, reflecting the view of the essay.
 - c. Student resume: should be one page describing the student's accomplishments, work experience, service to family, school and community, etc...
 - d. Letter of support from principal: Should help to document the student's accomplishments in student government and contributions to school and community.
 - e. All documents post-marked by October 1st, 2009 and sent to Indiana Bar Foundation.
- VI. Indiana Bar Foundation process for selection:
- a. Teams of reviewers will read all submitted essays. Each team will select their top five essays. A final review panel will then select the ten finalists that will be scheduled for the written exam and individual interviews.
- VII. Notification of finalists:
- a. The ten students who have been selected as finalists will be notified by a phone call, letter or fax to their principal, no later than October 19th, 2009. Principals who have not received notification by October 22nd will know that their nominee has not been selected. The ten finalists will also receive a packet of information via Federal Express letter.

VIII. Criteria for selection of two Delegates and two Alternates:

- a. Written test: students should perform well on objective and essay questions relating to state and federal government and U.S. political systems.
- b. Individual interview: students should demonstrate an understanding of current events and political issues of concern to the U.S. Government and general public, while having:
 - i. The ability to communicate effectively;
 - ii. The ability to deal with diverse opinions and viewpoints; and
 - iii. Good personal presentation.

IX. Notification of Delegates and Alternates:

- a. Delegates and Alternates will be announced in December 2009 by the Hearst Foundation. At that time, the Hearst Foundation will send Delegates information on travel arrangements, rules regarding student activities and behavior while in Washington D.C. and regulations governing the use of college scholarships.